

CELL's exhibit was developed in consultation with world-renowned thought leaders and award-winning artists.

As Larry points out, it is the only exhibit of its kind in the world and has evolved into a greater institute for terrorism prevention and preparedness training. Through its acclaimed exhibits, distinguished speakers series, and training programs, the CELL has impacted thousands of individuals and has helped to enhance our public safety. Many Members of this Chamber have visited the CELL and have witnessed firsthand the power of its dynamic programs and interactive exhibits.

In early 2012, I was proud to colead, with Larry and the CELL, a public event that examined our Nation's foreign policy challenges 10 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is a testament to Larry that the event was able to attract a broad range of top national security experts, Members of Congress, policymakers, the media, and members of the public.

Over the years, many acclaimed organizations have recognized Larry's work and his philanthropy. I want to name some of the honors that he has received.

In 1987, Larry received the National Humanitarian Award from National Jewish Health, a global leader in the research and treatment of respiratory, immune and related diseases.

In 1996, Larry was named honorary dean of the University of Denver's Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management.

In 2001, he was one of the recipients of the distinguished Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which gives tribute to the immigrant experience and individual achievement.

In 2002, Larry was awarded the title Honorary Irishman by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Catholic-Irish-American Fraternal Organization founded in 1836, for his work supporting the Heroes of 9/11.

In 2005, Larry received the Defenders of Freedom Award from the National Homeland Defense Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to securing freedom in the fields of homeland defense and security.

In 2010, he was awarded the Ben S. Wendelken Special Trustees' Award by Colorado's El Pomar Foundation, for embodying the spirit of service and giving through his life's work.

And in 2011, Larry received the Steve Ross Lifetime Achievement Award from the Milken Institute and was named a Colorado State Patrol Honorary Colonel.

I could go on and on, but I think these examples help illustrate the scope of Larry's work and his life passions and the way that he is valued in our community.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the people closest to Larry—his family. He cares deeply for them. Larry and his wife Carol have two grown children and five grandchildren.

Mr. President, I want to close with this observation. There are very few leaders who have brought our community together since September 11, 2001, like Larry has. Larry has rallied Coloradans together literally to remember the heroes and victims of 9/11 and to rise up against the evils of terrorism. It is what he does best: He assembles diverse groups of people, finds their commonality, and marshals them toward a noble purpose. Larry cares greatly about the security of the United States, as well as our allies worldwide. And he will stop at nothing to try to create a world where people do not live under the constant threat of attack, whether by persecutors, terrorists, or other enemies.

Today Colorado thanks a great American—Larry A. Mizel—for a lifetime of good work—and many more years to come. Happy 70th birthday, Larry.●

#### HONORING FRANK WILLETO

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, in the annals of our Nation's military history, the Navajo Code Talkers will always be remembered. They were a small group of marines, but their impact was far beyond their numbers. Their skills were crucial to American victory in the Pacific during World War II. They turned their Native language into an unbreakable code, and wielded that power as a great force in securing Allied victory.

Today, we mourn the loss of one of those heroic men. On June 23, Mr. Frank Chee Willetto died at his home in Pueblo Pintado, NM. Mr. Willetto was 87 years old. His life was a remarkable story of valor, of dedication, and of service.

Mr. Willetto was born and raised in Crownpoint, NM. In January 1944 he enlisted with the U.S. Marines, 6th Division. He trained for 8 weeks as a Navajo Code Talker. He served in the Pacific Theater in the Saipan and Okinawa campaigns.

Frank Willetto and his fellow Navajo Code Talkers joined a fight for freedom in a world that did not always accord freedom to them. They knew firsthand the ugly face of discrimination, of intolerance. U.S. law had recognized Native Americans as citizens for only 17 years when our country entered World War II.

And yet, many Native Americans bravely served during World War II, served at a higher percentage rate than the general population. And among them were Frank Willetto and the legendary Navajo Code Talkers.

Mr. Willetto was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal. Our Nation is forever in debt to him and his fellow Navajo Code Talkers. But that is only part of his story. When he came home from war, he devoted his life to his community. He worked for many years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then with the Department of Education.

In 1974, he was elected as a Navajo tribal councilman. He was later elected

president of Pueblo Pintado Chapter. He also served as a judge on the Navajo Supreme Judicial Council and as vice president of the Navajo Nation.

Last November, Mr. Willetto testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He shared his experiences in the military, and he reminded us all how important it is that our veterans receive the benefits they were promised. He was a tireless advocate for housing and health benefits for veterans. Frank Willetto lived a long and productive life, and to the end he was steadfast in his efforts to help others.

His was a life of service, of defending others in time of war, and serving others in times of peace. A life that is inspiring to all who knew him, and who mourn him now. We remember Frank Willetto, and we honor his legacy when we hold true to the ideals that he lived: honor, courage, commitment. I extend my sincere sympathies to Mr. Willetto's family, to his many friends, and to his community.●

#### RECOGNIZING RICK BARTOW

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today a part of the Pacific Northwest is coming to Washington, DC. Thanks to the immensely creative and dedicated work of artist Rick Bartow and his team, two wooden pole sculptures will be placed in the garden of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Atop one pole sits a bear and the other pole a raven, representing the healer and the rascal, respectively. The Bear pole is 27 feet tall, and the Raven pole, 23 feet tall. The poles—collectively titled "We Were Always Here"—will face the Washington Monument and overlook the National Mall.

The artist behind this project, Rick Bartow, is a Native American of Wiyot and Yurok heritage who was born in Newport, OR. His previous work has been shown throughout the world, including his Cedar Mill Pole, which was displayed at the White House in 1997. When you hear Mr. Bartow discuss his art, his process, and the world around him, you realize that you are listening to one of the country's foremost artistic minds.

That talent is clearly showcased in "We Were Always Here." The level of detail, history, and meaning in each pole is truly amazing. The poles are based on Native beliefs, but the message and meaning behind them are universal. For example, Mr. Bartow explains that the repeated horizontal patterns on each pole, "symbolize successive waves, generations following generations, an accumulation of wisdom and knowledge." This idea that we can learn from our ancestors and from history is critical to the progress of our Nation and is one that is beautifully captured through these sculpture poles.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Mr. Bartow and his team, folks visiting the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian or walking the National Mall will now be able to look